

PROTECTION

certain activities in important ground water recharge areas. Several areas of the country have used prohibition of polluting activities successfully through source regulation or land use controls. For example, Suffolk County (New York) and the state of Connecticut have banned the use of organic septic system cleaners. Florida and the New Jersey Pinelands Commission prohibit land disposal of hazardous waste. These and other programs that have used prohibition are discussed in Chapter 4.

The committee found that several state and local entities use hazardous and solid waste disposal strategies other than land disposal. For example, programs such as Florida's "Amnesty Days" have successfully collected household hazardous waste and hazardous waste from small-quantity industrial and commercial generators that otherwise might have been improperly disposed of. However, few states or communities have adopted programs for aggressively promoting source reduction of hazardous waste and recycling of solid waste.

The committee therefore recommends that all states and local entities consider similar strategies for reducing improper disposal of household and other small-quantity generator hazardous waste. Municipalities and states should also consider the relative merits of comprehensive solid waste recycling and incineration programs.

Land Use Controls

Almost every human activity has some potential for contaminating the underlying ground water. The degree of risk is determined by hydrogeologic conditions at a given location and characterization and use patterns of the potential pollutants. Restrictions on land use activities in certain designated sensitive areas can be a significant component of a ground water protection program and may be linked to a ground water classification system.

Land use control is a good complement to source control programs and can significantly increase the level of protection and reduce the cost of both programs. The land use control programs reviewed were implemented at the county or municipal level (i.e., Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Florida). However, projects described in this report (Chapter 4) have demonstrated that effective planning at one level of government can lead to implementation at various levels, ranging from towns to state jurisdictions. If provided with planning and technical support from the state and EPA, many localities can develop effective ground water protection programs employing land use controls.

The committee recommends that land use controls be considered an essential part of a ground water protection program. Although land use controls are best